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**For Immediate Release**

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## **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed annually on June 15. Elder abuse is an under-recognized problem, with devastating and even life-threatening consequences.

The National Center of Elder Abuse has compiled the following list of ideas to draw attention to the problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation:

- On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, make it a priority to visit an older friend or relative who lives in a nursing home.
- Purple is the color that has been designated for elder abuse awareness by the International Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. Wear purple in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Commit to visiting an older friend, family member, or neighbor who lives alone, or invite them to a family activity, such as a Little League Game.
- Ask an older acquaintance to share their talents by teaching you or your children a new skill, such as knitting, or how to bake a favorite recipe.
- Volunteer at a local chapter of Meals on Wheels.
- Become a Volunteer Long Term Care Ombudsman. Ombudsmen act as advocates for those living in nursing homes and assisted living communities to assist in resolving complaints and issues. For more information about the program contact Sharnina Starling-Buford at 702-486-3574 or [sdstarling@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:sdstarling@adsd.nv.gov).

**Suggestions for Older Individuals to Reduce the Risk of Elder Abuse:**

- Maintain a normal schedule for doctor and dentist visits.
- Investigate financial and legal planning strategies, including advanced health directives, and develop and follow through with a plan that meets your needs.

- Investigate daily money management programs for assistance in budgeting, banking and bill-paying.
- Talk about your needs with a trusted friend, neighbor, or loved one, and ask for help. The key to maintaining overall independence is in identifying areas where you can use assistance, and asking trustworthy sources for help in these areas. The State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division can provide assistance in identifying resources available and suitable for your needs. To find resources in in Southern Nevada call 1-702-486-3545, and in Northern Nevada 1-775-688-2964.

**To report suspected elder abuse, neglect, isolation, or exploitation contact The State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division at the numbers listed below:**

- Las Vegas/Clark County      1-702-486-6930
- Statewide/All other areas      1-888-729-0571

*If an older person is in immediate danger call the local police, sheriff's office, or emergency medical center.*

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For more information about Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention, please contact Jill Berntson, Social Services Chief for the Aging and Disability Services Division, (775) 687-0534 or [jberntson@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:jberntson@adsd.nv.gov)